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30 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Annual Report to the President's Foreign  
Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) - FY 1970

REFERENCE : Memorandum from O/DDS&T dated 2 June 1970;  
Subject: Annual Report to PFIAB

The following items are submitted for your consideration for possible inclusion with DD/S&T items for the Annual Report to PFIAB for FY 1970. This information is provided in the requested format.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. IDEALIST

1. The IDEALIST program maintained an Operationally Ready status with the capability of accomplishing the assigned mission: "To conduct covert reconnaissance (photographic and electronic) over denied and hostile territory, or peripheral reconnaissance on a world-wide basis in support of intelligence objectives of the United States." [redacted] at Edwards Air Force Base, California, [redacted] with a total of [redacted] U-2R operational aircraft, provide a rapid reaction, covert capability to respond to fast developing worldwide contingency situations. With its organizational structure, facilities, and equipment in being and in operation, IDEALIST becomes a national asset with an inherent value in its ability to fulfill national requirements. This ability was reconfirmed in FY 1970 with the successful completion of 14 peripheral missions off the coast of mainland China, two overseas

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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NRO review(s) completed.

[REDACTED]  
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deployments, and a deployment to achieve carrier qualification of the U-2R aircraft and selected pilots. The program is budgeted at [REDACTED] and, as such, provides an economical means of meeting certain photographic reconnaissance [REDACTED] needs in potential crisis environments.

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2. Following are the dates and the general areas of coverage of IDEALIST/TACKLE operational missions flown in FY 1970. All were combined photographic [REDACTED] missions off the China coast and they were flown in accordance with the 40 Committee restriction to remain at least 20 nautical miles from the China mainland.

a. 17 August 1969: East coast of Hainan Island through the Formosa Strait area.

b. 24 August 1969: From a point south of Tsingtao, and the Shantung and Liaotung Peninsulas.

c. 9 September 1969: Foochow to a point south of Hong Kong.

d. 25 September 1969: Hainan Island along the coast to a point opposite the northern tip to Taiwan.

e. 16 October 1969: Liaotung and Shantung Peninsulas to a point 50 nautical miles east of Yen-cheng.

f. 26 November 1969: Hong Kong through the Formosa Strait to a point southeast of Ningpo.

g. 1 December 1969: Liu Chiao to a point north of Shanghai.

h. 10 December 1969: Hainan Island to Foochow.

i. 14 February 1970: Point north of Shanghai to Amoy.

j. 17 March 1970: Point north of Shanghai to the Shantung Peninsula.


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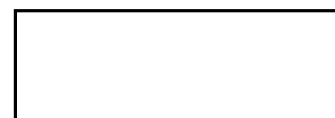
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- k. 26 March 1970: Shantung and Liaotung Peninsulas.
- l. 4 April 1970: Just north of Foochow to Hong Kong.
- m. 15 April 1970: From Hainan Island to a point just north of Hong Kong.
- n. 16 June 1970: From a point northeast of Foochow to a point east of Hong Kong.



5. During the period 20-24 November 1969, the Edwards AFB Detachment deployed two carrier landing configured U-2Rs to NASA, Wallops Station, Virginia. Wallops Station was used as a staging base for aircraft and pilots for qualification operations on the aircraft carrier, USS America. The exercise completed the development of a capability to deploy U-2R aircraft and crews for operational missions from other than land bases. Subsequently, two CIA  were qualified in U-2R carrier operations.

6. Typical of other types of projects which the IDEALIST resources have supported include:





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a. HURRICANE BASE LINE SURVEY: Obtained photographic coverage of some 61,000 square miles of the southern United States. This will provide base line photography for future hurricane damage assessment.



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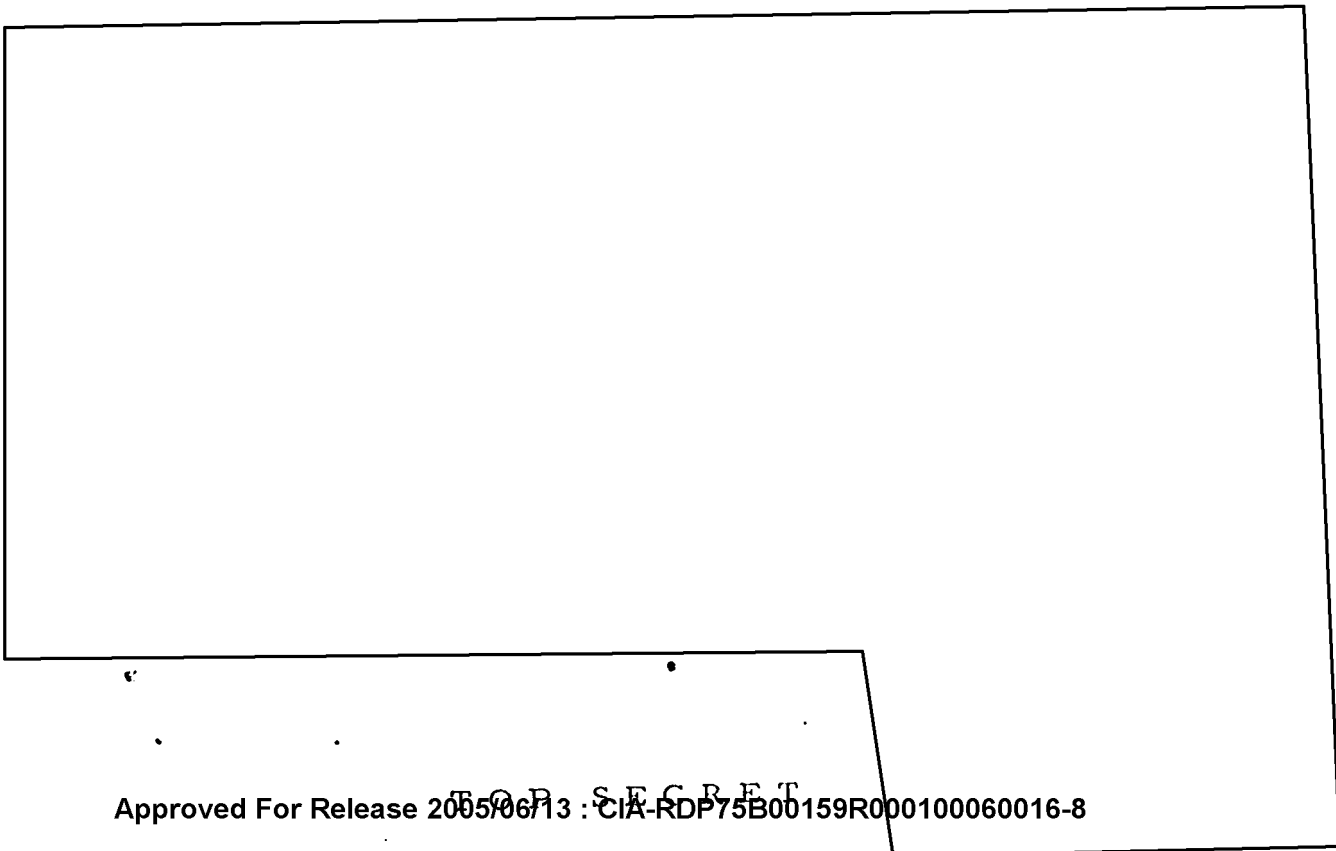
c. SNOW SURVEY: Provided photography for California water resources survey for the Department of Commerce.



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e. RED DOT: Continued to support the Color Task Force with photographic coverage of selected targets in CONUS. This provides comparison of color and black and white photography and assists in determining usefulness of various filters and film emulsions.

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- first quarter of FY-72, with a target date for the first overflight mission in October/November 1971.

#### D. PHOTOGRAPHIC SENSORS

1. Two improvements to photographic sensor capabilities were made during FY-70. One was incorporation of the IRIS II (Itek Rotating Optical Bar) System as the primary photographic sensor. The second was the qualification of a new high definition aerial film, S0349, for use with the IRIS II and "H" (special purpose configuration) systems. When compared with the film being replaced this film has exhibited near identical micro-image, resolution and granularity characteristics. However, it has demonstrated significantly improved fog level characteristics permitting forced processing and effective film speed increases. This will allow for reduced lighting and minimize the effect of motion on the imagery. This film will replace all type 3404 film previously used.

2. Efforts directed toward the development and acquisition of an apochromatic Petzval lens were commenced by OSA at NRO direction in the second half of FY 1970. This is a color corrected lens system designed to provide correct color rendition and high resolution quality with color film. Contract negotiations were completed in May 1970, with a schedule calling for installation of the lens in a DELTA III camera system for laboratory testing by July 1971. Thereafter, the system will be flown in a U-2 aircraft over selected areas for operational testing. On the basis of the test data the Intelligence Community will be able to ascertain more precisely the capabilities of color films when used with a color corrected system.

#### E. AVIONICS PROGRAM

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F. PRODUCTION AND FLIGHT TEST DATA FOR SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT (SST)

At the request of AFIGO-S in June 1970, the Director of Special Activities requested the assistance of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in releasing high Mach aircraft production and flight test data for use in industry for the SST, the Advanced Bomber and other fighter aircraft. The President's National Aeronautics and Space Council submitted a list of questions which would require answers from heretofore unreleased data. In the past, Lockheed has been hesitant to release this data for security and proprietary reasons. However, they have been asked to cooperate in this matter in the national interest and, as of the date of this report, it appears they will comply.

II. PROBLEMS AND DEFICIENCIES

None of significance for this report.

III. EXTERNAL POLICIES OR EVENTS AFFECTING PROGRAM

A. OVERFLIGHT BAN

1. No U-2 overflights of mainland Communist China have been conducted since 16 March 1968. Present IDEALIST/TACKLE missions continue to comply with the 40 Committee restriction requiring U-2 flights to remain at least 20 nautical miles from the

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Chinese mainland. Thus, photography is restricted to oblique coverage of coastal targets, [REDACTED]

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2. Although satellite photography provides coverage of extensive areas of the China mainland, generally poor weather conditions in South China make reconnaissance efforts exceedingly difficult in that area. A variety of factors make the U-2R a singularly capable vehicle for reconnaissance activities over the mainland and South China in particular. It possesses a quick reaction capability and it's long range enables it to take advantage of breaks in adverse weather patterns. [REDACTED]

3. The substantive intelligence derived from present peripheral missions does provide vital ELINT information for operational planning of possible future IDEALIST/TACKLE overflights. However, the continued ban on mainland overflights limits our knowledge of ChiCom air defenses and permits the Chinese Communists greater flexibility in deploying SAMs and MIG-21 aircraft. Thus, such extended operational constraints tend to degrade our potential operational capabilities.

[REDACTED]  
HAROLD F. KNOWLES  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director of Special Activities

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Compt/OSA/[Redacted]

Distribution:

- #1 - DD/S&T
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- #7 - D/R&D/OSA
- #8 - C/CMD/OSA
- #9 - Compt/OSA
- #10 RB/OSA

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E. Technical Collection

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1. Imagery\*

a. Collection by Manned Aircraft. The U-2 (IDEALIST program), the only manned aircraft reconnaissance system maintained by CIA, conducts world-wide covert reconnaissance (photographic and electronic) against priority intelligence targets. [ ] U-2R aircraft in

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[ ] at Edwards Air Force Base [ ] provide a rapid reaction covert response to fast breaking situations.

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The IDEALIST program is an economical means of meeting photographic [ ] requirements in potential crisis situations; it is able to take advantage of breaks in adverse weather conditions to supplement satellite coverage; and it can operate when reconnaissance satellites are not in orbit.

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IDEALIST aircraft were used in support of domestic information needs. A Hurricane Base Line Survey operation obtained 61,000 square miles of coverage of the southern U.S. to provide base line photography for hurricane damage assessment, and a snow survey was performed in California to survey water resources. Examples of

\*The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) has the major funding responsibility for all Imagery programs for which the Agency has management responsibility; the Agency budgets personnel and related support costs for these programs.

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